

PRO

- ² Settled relation of comparative quantity; equal degree:
Greater visible good does not always raise men's desires, in proportion to the greatness it is acknowledged to have, though every little trouble sets us on work to get rid of it. *Locke.*
He must be little skilled in the world, who thinks that men's talking much or little shall hold proportion only to their knowledge. *Locke.*
Several nations are recovered out of their ignorance, in proportion as they converse more or less with those of the reformed churches. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*
In proportion as this resolution grew, the terrors before us seemed to vanish. *Tatler, No. 81.*
3. Harmonick degree.
His volant touch
Instinct through all proportions, low and high,
Fled, and purr'd transverse the resonant fugue. *Milton.*
4. Symmetry; adaptation of one to another.
It must be mutual in proportion due
Giv'n and receiv'd. *Milton.*
No man of the present age is equal in the strength, proportion and knitting of his limbs to the Hercules of Farnese. *Dryden's Duffresnoy.*
The proportions are so well observed, that nothing appears to an advantage, or distinguishes itself above the rest. *Addison.*
Harmony, with every grace,
Plays in the fair proportions of her face. *Mrs. Carter.*
5. Form; size.
All things receiv'd, do such proportion take,
As those things have, wherein they are receiv'd;
So little glasses little faces make,
And narrow webs on narrow frames are weav'd. *Davies.*
To PROPORTION. *v. a.* [from *proportionner*, Fr. from the noun.]
1. To adjust by comparative relation.
Measure is that which perfecteth all things, because every thing is for some end; neither can that thing be available to any end, which is not proportionate therunto: and to proportion as well excesses as defects, are opposite. *Hooker.*
Till body up to spirit work, in bounds
Proportion'd to each kind. *Milton.*
In the loss of an object, we do not proportion our grief to the real value it bears, but to the value our fancies set upon it. *Addison's Spectator, No. 256.*
2. To form symmetrically.
Nature had proportion'd her without any fault, quickly to be discovered by the senses; yet altogether seem'd not to make up that harmony that Cupid delights in. *Sidney.*
PROPORTIONABLE. *adj.* [from *proportion*.] Adjusted by comparative relation; such as is fit.
His commandments are not grievous, because he offers us an assistance proportionable to the difficulty. *Tilleyson.*
It was enliven'd with an hundred and twenty trumpets, assisted with a proportionable number of other instruments. *Add.*
PROPORTIONABLY. *adv.* [from *proportion*.] According to proportion; according to comparative relations.
The mind ought to examine all the grounds of probability, and upon a due balancing the whole, reject or receive it proportionably to the preponderancy of the greater grounds of probability, on one side or the other. *Locke.*
The parts of a great thing are great, and there are proportionally large estates in a large country. *Arbuthnot.*
Though religion be more eminently necessary to those in stations of authority, yet these qualities are proportionally conducive to publick happiness in every inferior relation. *Rogers.*
PROPORTIONAL. *adj.* [from *proportional*, Fr. from *proportion*.] Having a settled comparative relation; having a certain degree of any quality compared with something else.
As likely tasting to attain
Proportional ascent, which cannot be
But to be gods or angels. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
Four numbers are said to be proportional, when the first containeth, or is contained by the second, as often as the third containeth, or is contained by the fourth. *Cocker.*
If light be swifter in bodies than in vacuo in the proportion of the lines which measure the refraction of the bodies, the forces of the bodies to reflect and refract light, are very nearly proportional to the densities of the same bodies. *Newton.*
PROPORTIONALITY. *n. f.* [from *proportional*.] The quality of being proportional.
All sense, as grateful, dependeth upon the equality or the proportionality of the motion or impression made. *Grew.*
PROPORTIONALLY. *adv.* [from *proportional*.] In a stated degree.
If these circles, whilst their centres keep their distances and positions, could be made less in diameter, their interfering one with another, and by consequence the mixture of the heterogeneous rays would be proportionally diminished. *Newton.*
PROPORTIONATE. *adj.* [from *proportion*.] Adjusted to something else, according to a certain rate or comparative relation.
The connection between the end and any means is adequate, but between the end and means proportionate. *Grew.*
The use of spectacles, by an adequate connection of truths, gave men occasion to think of microscopes and telescopes;

- but the invention of burning glasses depended on a proportionate; for that figure, which contracts the species of any body, that is, the rays by which it is seen, will, in the same proportion, contract the heat wherewith the rays are accompanied. *Grew's Conf.*
In the state of nature, one man comes by no absolute power, to use a criminal according to the passion or heats of his own will; but only to retribute to him, so far as conscience dictates, what is proportionate to his transgression. *Locke.*
To PROPORTIONATE. *v. a.* [from *proportion*.] To adjust, according to settled rates, to something else.
The parallelism and due proportionate inclination of the axis of the earth. *More's Divine Dialogues.*
Since every single particle hath an innate gravitation toward all others, proportionate by matter and distance, it evidently appears, that the outward atoms of the chaos would necessarily tend inwards, and descend from all quarters towards the middle of the whole space. *Bentley's Sermon.*
PROPORTIONATENESS. *n. f.* [from *proportionate*.] The state of being by comparison adjusted.
By this congruity of those faculties to their proper objects, and by the fitness and proportionateness of these objective impressions upon their respective faculties, accommodated to their reception, the sensible nature hath so much of perception, as is necessary for its sensible being. *Hale.*
PROPOSAL. *n. f.* [from *proposere*.]
1. Scheme or design propounded to consideration or acceptance.
If our proposals once again were heard,
We should compel them to a quick result. *Milton.*
The work, you mention, will sufficiently recommend itself, when your name appears with the proposals. *Add. to Po.*
2. Offer to the mind.
Upon the proposal of an agreeable object, a man's choice will rather incline him to accept than refuse it. *South.*
This truth is not likely to be entertained readily upon the first proposal. *Atterbury.*
To PROPOSE. *v. a.* [from *proposere*, Fr. *proponere*, Lat.] To offer to the consideration.
Raphael to Adam's doubt propos'd,
Benevolent and facil thus reply'd.
My design is to treat only of those, who have chiefly propos'd to themselves the latter as the principal reward of their labours. *Tatler, No. 81.*
In learning any thing, there should be as little as possible first propos'd to the mind at once, and that being understood, proceed then to the next adjoining part. *Watts.*
To PROPOSE. *v. n.* To lay schemes. Not in use.
Run thee into the parlour,
There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice,
Proposing with the prince and Claudio. *Shakespeare.*
PROPOSER. *n. f.* [from *proposere*.] One that offers any thing to consideration.
Faith is the assent to any proposition, not made out by the deductions of reason, but upon the credit of the proposer, as coming from God. *Locke.*
He provided a statute, that whoever propos'd any alteration to be made, should do it with a rope about his neck; if the matter propos'd were generally approved, then it should pass into a law; if it went in the negative, the proposer to be immediately hang'd. *Swift.*
PROPOSITION. *n. f.* [from *proposition*, Fr. *propositione*, Lat.]
1. A sentence in which any thing is affirmed or decreed.
Chryppus, labouring how to reconcile these two propositions, that all things are done by fate, and yet that something is in our own power, cannot extricate himself. *Hammond.*
The compounding of the representation of things, with an affirmation or negation, makes a proposition. *Hale.*
2. Proposal; offer of terms.
The enemy sent propositions, such as upon delivery of a strong fortified town, after a handsome defence, are usually granted. *Clarendon.*
PROPOSITIONAL. *adj.* [from *proposition*.] Considered as a proposition.
If it has a singular subject in its propositional sense, it is always ranked with universals. *Watts's Logic.*
To PROPOUND. *v. a.* [from *proponere*, Lat.]
1. To offer to consideration; to propose.
The parliament, which now is held, decreed
Whatever pleas'd the king but to propound.
To leave as little as I may unto fancy, which is wild and irregular, I will propound a rule.
Dar't thou to the son of God propound
To worship thee. *Milton.*
The greatest stranger must propound the argument. *Mary.*
The arguments, which christianity propounds to us, are reasonable encouragements to bear sufferings patiently. *Tilleyson.*
2. To offer; to exhibit.
A spirit rais'd from depth of under-ground,
That shall make answer to such questions,
As by your grace shall be propounded him. *Shakespeare.*
PROPOUNDER. *n. f.* [from *proponere*.] He that propounds; he that offers; proposer.

PROPRIETARY.

PRO

- PROPRIETARY. *n. f.* [from *proprietaire*, Fr. from *propriety*.] Possessor in his own right.
'Tis a great mistake to think ourselves stewards in some of God's gifts, and proprietaries in others: they are all equally to be employed, according to the designation of the donor. *Government of the Tongue.*
PROPRIETARY. *adj.* Belonging to a certain owner.
Though sheep, which are proprietaries, are seldom marked, yet they are not apt to straggle. *Grew's Conf.*
PROPRIETOR. *n. f.* [from *proprius*, Lat.] A possessor in his own right.
Man, by being master of himself, and proprietor of his own person, and the actions or labour of it, had still in himself the great foundation of property.
Though they are scattered on the wings of the morning, and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall his right hand fetch them out, and lead them home to their ancient proprietor. *Rogers.*
PROPRIETRESS. *n. f.* [from *proprietaire*.] A female possessor in her own right; a mistress.
A big-bellied bitch borrowed another bitch's kennel to lay her burthen in; the proprietress demanded possession, but the other begged her excuse. *L'Estrange.*
PROPRIETY. *n. f.* [from *proprius*, Fr. *proprietas*, Lat.]
1. Peculiarity of possession; exclusive right.
You that have promis'd to yourselves propriety in love,
Know women's hearts like straws do move. *Suckling.*
Benefit of peace, and vacation for piety, render it necessary by laws to secure propriety. *Hammond.*
Hail wedded love! mysterious law; true source
Of human offspring, sole propriety
In Paradise! of all things common else. *Milton.*
They secure propriety and peace. *Dryden.*
To that we owe not only the safety of our persons and the propriety of our possessions, but our improvement in the several arts. *Atterbury.*
2. Accuracy; justness.
Common use, that is the rule of propriety, affords some aid to settle the signification of language. *Locke.*
PROPT, for PROPT. [from *propere*.] Sustained by some prop.
See in her cell sad Elodia spread,
Propt in some tomb, a neighbour of the dead. *Pope.*
To PROPUGN. *v. a.* [from *propugnare*, Lat.] To defend; to vindicate.
Thankfulness is our meet tribute to those sacred champions for propugnating of our faith. *Hammond.*
PROPUGNATION. *n. f.* [from *propugnare*, from *propugnare*, Latin.] Defence.
What propugnation is in one man's valour,
To stand the pull and empty of those
This quarrel would excite! *Shakespeare, Troilus and Cressida.*
PROPUGNER. *n. f.* [from *propugnare*.] A defender.
So zealous propugnators are they of their native creed, that they are importunately diligent to instruct men in it, and in all the little sophistries for defending it. *G. v. of the Tongue.*
PROPUSION. *n. f.* [from *propulsus*, Lat.] The act of driving forward.
Joy worketh by propulsin of the moisture of the brain, when the spirits dilate and occupy more room. *Bacon.*
The evanescent solid and fluid will scarce differ, and the extremities of those small canals will by propulsin be carried off with the fluid continually. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*
PROPE. *n. f.* [from *prope*, Lat.] The prow; the forepart of the ship. A poetical word used for a rhyme.
There no vessel, with vermilion prope,
Or bark of traffick, glides from shore to shore. *Pope.*
PROROGATION. *n. f.* [from *prorogare*, from *prorogare*, Lat. *prorogatio*, Fr.]
1. Continuance; state of lengthening out to a distant time; prolongation.
The fulness and effluence of man's enjoyments in the state of innocence, might seem to leave no place for hope, in respect of any farther addition, but only of the prorogation and future continuance of what already he possessed. *South.*
2. Interruption of the session of parliament by the regal authority.
It would seem extraordinary, if an inferior court should take a matter out of the hands of the high court of parliament, during a prorogation. *Swift.*
To PROROGUE. *v. a.* [from *prorogare*, Lat. *prorogare*, Fr.]
1. To protract; to prolong.
He prorogued his government, still threatening to dismiss himself from publick cares. *Dryden.*
2. To put off; to delay.
My life were better ended by their hate,
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love. *Shakespeare.*
3. To interrupt the session of parliament to a distant time.
By the king's authority alone, they are assembled, and by him alone they are prorogued and dissolved, but each house may adjourn itself. *Bacon.*
PRORUPTION. *n. f.* [from *prorumpere*, from *prorumpere*, Lat.] The act of bursting out.

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- Others ground this disruption upon their continued or protracted time of delivery, whereat, excluding but one a day, the latter brood impatient by a forcible prorruption anticipates their period of exclusion. *Brown's Vulgar Errurs.*
PRORUPT. *adj.* [from *prorumpere*, Fr. *prorumpere*, from *prope*, Lat.] Belonging to prose; resembling prose.
To PROSCRIBE. *v. a.* [from *proscribere*, Lat.]
1. To censure capitally; to doom to destruction.
Robert Vere, earl of Oxford, through the malice of the peers, was banished the realm, and proscribed. *Spenser.*
I hid for thee
Thy murder of thy brother, being so brib'd,
And writ him in the list of my proscrib'd
After thy fact. *Benj. Johnson.*
Follow'd and pointed at by fools and boys,
But dreaded and proscrib'd by men of sense. *Roscommon.*
Some utterly proscribe the name of chance, as a word of impious and profane signification; and indeed if taken by us in that sense, in which it was used by the heathen, so as to make any thing casual, in respect of God himself, their exception ought justly to be admitted. *South's Sermons.*
2. To interdict. Not in use.
He shall be found,
And taken or proscrib'd this happy ground. *Dryden.*
PROSCRIBER. *n. f.* [from *proscribere*.] One that dooms to destruction.
The triumvir and proscriber had defended to us in a more hideous form, if the emperor had not taken care to make friends of Virgil and Horace. *Dryden.*
PROSCRIPTION. *n. f.* [from *proscriptio*, Lat.] Doom to death or confiscation.
You took his voice who should be prick'd to die,
In our black sentence and proscription. *Shakespeare.*
Sylla's old troops
Are needy and poor; and have but left t' expect
From Catiline new bills and new proscriptions. *B. J. Ins.*
For the title of proscription or forfeiture, the emperor hath been judge and party, and justified himself. *Bacon.*
PROSE. *n. f.* [from *prosa*, Fr. *prosa*, Lat.] Language not restrained to harmonick sounds or set number of syllables; discourse not metrical.
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme. *Milton.*
The reformation of prose was owing to Boccace, who is the standard of purity in the Italian tongue, though many of his phrases are become obsolete. *Dryden.*
A poet lets you into the knowledge of a device better than a prose writer, as his descriptions are often more diffuse. *Add.*
Prose men alone for private ends,
I thought, forsook their ancient friends. *Prior.*
I will be still your friend in prose:
Esteem and friendship to express,
Will not require poetick dress. *Swift.*
My head and heart thus flowing through my quill,
Verse man and prose man, term me which you will. *Pope.*
To PROSECUTE. *v. a.* [from *prosequere*, *prosecutus*, Lat.]
1. To pursue; to continue endeavours after any thing.
I am belov'd of beauteous Hermia,
Why should not I then prosecute my right?
I must not omit a father's timely care,
To prosecute the means of thy deliverance
By ransom. *Shakespeare.*
He prosecuted this purpose with strength of argument and close reasoning, without incoherent fallies. *Locke.*
2. To continue; to carry on.
The same reasons, which induced you to entertain this war, will induce you also to prosecute the same. *Hayward.*
All resolute to prosecute their ire,
Seeking their own and country's cause to free. *Daniel.*
He inked Oxford, which gave them the more reason to prosecute the fortifications. *Clarendon.*
With louder cries
She prosecutes her griefs, and thus replies. *Dryden.*
3. To proceed in consideration or disquisition of any thing.
It were an infinite labour to prosecute those things, so far as they might be exemplified in religious and civil actions. *Hooker, b. iv. f. 1.*
4. To pursue by law; to sue criminally.
5. To prosecute differs from to persecute: to persecute always implies some cruelty, malignity or injustice; to prosecute, is to proceed by legal measures, either with or without just cause.
PROSECUTION. *n. f.* [from *prosecute*.]
1. Pursuit; endeavour to carry on.
Many offer at the effects of friendship, but they do not last; they are promising in the beginning, but they fail, jade, and tire in the prosecution. *South.*
Their jealousy of the British power, as well as their prosecutions of commerce and pursuits of universal monarchy, will fix them in their averrions towards us. *Addison.*
2. Suit against a man in a criminal cause.
PROSECUTOR. *n. f.* [from *prosecute*.] One that carries on any thing; a pursuer of any purpose; one who pursues another by law in a criminal cause.

PROSELYTE.